IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 16,~~ Method for evaluating in real-time a packet stream having a plurality of packets, said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving the plurality of packets into a buffer;

b) extracting a plurality of time base information from said plurality of packets;

c) comparing said time base information to detect transport rate jitter; and

wherein said extracting step (b) comprises the steps of:

b1) computing a total unit of bit time by multiplying a number of received packets with a number of bits per packet; and

b2) computing a total unit of bit time by multiplying a difference between a current program clock reference (PCR) value and a last PCR value with a bit rate in units of bits per PCR tick.

19. (Original) ~~The method of claim 16,~~ Method for evaluating in real-time a packet stream having a plurality of packets, said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving the plurality of packets into a buffer;

b) extracting a plurality of time base information from said plurality of packets;

c) comparing said time base information to detect transport rate jitter; and

wherein said extracting step (b) comprises the steps of:

b1) computing a total unit of bit time by multiplying a number of received packets with a number of bits per packet; and

b2) computing a total unit of bit time by multiplying a difference between a current recorded program clock reference (PCR) value and a last recorded PCT value with a bit rate in units of bits per PCT tick.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) ~~The computer-readable medium of claim 20,~~ A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps comprising of:

a) receiving the plurality of packets into a buffer;

b) extracting a plurality of time base information from said plurality of packets;

c) comparing said time base information to detect transport rate jitter; and

wherein said extracting step (b) comprises the steps of:

b1) computing a total unit of bit time by multiplying a number of received packets with a number of bits per packet; and

b2) computing a total unit of bit time by multiplying a difference between a current program clock reference (PCR) value and a last PCR value with a bit rate in units of bits per PCR tick.

23. (Currently amended) ~~The computer-readable medium of claim 20~~, A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps comprising of:

a) receiving the plurality of packets into a buffer;

b) extracting a plurality of time base information from said plurality of packets;

c) comparing said time base information to detect transport rate jitter; and

wherein said extracting step (b) comprises the steps of:

b1) computing a total unit of bit time by multiplying a number of received packets with a number of bits per packet; and

b2) computing a total unit of bit time by multiplying a difference between a current recorded program clock reference (PCR) value and a last recorded PCR value with a bit rate in units of bits per PCR tick.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 24,~~ Apparatus for evaluating in real-time a packet stream having a plurality of packets, said apparatus comprising:

a buffer for receiving the plurality of packets;

means for extracting a plurality of time base information from said plurality of packets;

means for comparing said time base information to detect transport rate jitter; and

wherein said extracting means computes a total unit of bit time by multiplying a number of received packets with a number of bits per packet, and computes a total unit of bit time by multiplying a difference between a current program clock reference (PCR) value and a last PCR value with a bit rate in units of bits per PCR tick.

27. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 24,~~ Apparatus for evaluating in real-time a packet stream having a plurality of packets, said apparatus comprising:

a buffer for receiving the plurality of packets;

means for extracting a plurality of time base information from said plurality of packets;

means for comparing said time base information to detect transport rate jitter; and

wherein said extracting means computes a total unit of bit time by multiplying a number of received packets with a number of bits per packet, and computes a total unit of bit time by multiplying a difference between a current recorded program clock reference (PCR) value and a last recorded PCR value with a bit rate in units of bits per PCR tick.